

Thunder Bay, On-

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February 2022

Issue 02

The Pres Says: (I know it's my first one)

The new year is well on its way and just when you thought there might be a glimpse of hope in the Covid19 numbers, well everything went out the window and it seems like we are back to square one. Anyone remember the movie *Groundhog Day*?

Even though, it was great to see Stephan VE3SJB and Brandon VE3OTV wondering what they were going to do for Winter Field Day. Before you knew it, both had a plan which they were able to execute on short notice. I admit they had a hard time planning anything big, as everything had to comply to the Covid19 restrictions. I attended their Winter Field Day which took place just outside of Kakabeka Falls and was so impressed, I will not steal Brandon's thunder as he has offered to do a presentation for us on Winter Field Day 2022. All I can say, everyone that attended had a blast and certainly did not leave hungry.

At this time, I would like to also recognize Fred VE3FAL for going out to his fire shelter and working Winter Field Day from there and also the crew that worked Winter Field Day from Arrow Lake which consisted of Ed VE3SNW, Brad VE3MXJ, Lori VE3VAI, and Barrie VA3BJI. Nice to see everyone trying to get on the air and have some fun in various ways.

Now if you are sitting back right now saying: “Well that sounded like a lot of fun, wish I would have participated.” Well do not fear, I hear there are going to be numerous club activities throughout the year that you can join, and they sound like a lot of fun some even for the whole family. (Yes, this year we want to be family friendly (covid 19 permitting) and involve your partners and/or children.) So, stay tuned and join us at the LARC meetings via zoom to get more info as these events develop. They may come with only 2-3 weeks notice, that’s the way to make it happen. Rather than plan/talk it to death.

By the way if reading this has re-inspired your interest in ham radio (even just a little), then contact at least

one or more of your old ham friends and get them to come and check out what the LARC is up to. No, you don't have to join, just come to a meeting or two, start feeling re-inspired about the LARC, then perhaps join and enjoy the fun.

Eric Todd VE3XET
President

Sleeping Giant Loppet

I have received good news and bad news from Peter at the Loppet

Good news is that the Loppet will run in a modified form. Bad news, our services will NOT be required for the event as check points and timing are not going to be used and health and welfare are going to be handled by park people and the ski patrol.

Thanks to all that said you were willing to go out and represent the club as volunteers. I am disappointed that we will not be able to practice our trade but feel good to know that our group is dependable when called upon. Please go make some snow angles and ask the powers to be to let us do this next year once this crazy world we are spinning on get straightened up

Randy VA3OJ

Sleeping Giant Loppet Comms

Freeze Your Buns Off Antenna Testing

On Saturday, February 26th, we are planning to hold an Antenna Testing opportunity for any and all interested club members. We are hoping to start around 11am and continue till around 4pm. There will be a potluck style late-lunch; the BBQ will be warm in case you need it.

If you are interested in this event or have any questions, please contact VE3OPF – Axel Rehfuhs at either 807-623-4488 or axels@tbaytel.net.

Hope to see you all there!

LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS

Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President: Eric Todd VE3XET

VP: Stephan Burns VE3SJB

Treasurer: Randy McAllister VA3WBW

Secretary:

Board Members

Robert Hansen VE3RVA

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

Axel Rehfuhs VE3OPF

John Plumridge VE3FMT

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ

ACS Amethyst District Emergency Coordinator

Warren Paulson, VE3FYN

CANWARN

VA3JMS John 767-3631

VE3RRP Karl

Public Service Events

VA3TBA Chris Chadwick

Accredited Examiners

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

flesnick@tbaytel.net

VE3VAI Lori Bedford (807) 630-7688
lbedford@tbaytel.net

2022

ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. . Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to hqnewsletter@gmail.com

Amethyst District Auxiliary Communications Service Providing emergency communications for Northwestern Ontario

This is a list of the ACS frequencies in order of preference, number 1 being the first choice, if that frequency is in use or not working as in a repeater, then number 2 is the next choice, and so on,,,,,,,,,

VHF

1. 147.060- VE3YQT (MT.BALDY)
2. 147.390+ VE3BGA PL107.2 (LOCH LOMOND)
3. 146.820- VE3TBR PL107.2 (ST.JOSEPH HERITAGE)
4. SIMPLEX 146.520 > 146.580 > 146.550

HF

RAC ACS Canadian National Emergency Frequencies

1. 80M 3.675MHz LSB designated as ALPHA
2. 40M 7.135MHz LSB designated as BRAVO
3. 20M 14.135MHz USB designated as CHARLIE

Nets and Exercises

Wednesdays at 8 PM ET (2000hrs) 0000UTC on frequency 3.675MHz LSB (80 Metres)

We have four different net control operators across NWO. At the end of check in's we try and do some sort of exercise, winlink P2P, JS8 CALL, passing messages. Everyone is encouraged to check in, even if you are not an ACS or LARC member.

EZNEC antenna modelling software is now available free of charge!

Its due to the retirement of Roy W7EL the program's author.

Head on over to <https://www.eznec.com/> for the info, download and f.a.q. page

-- thanks to Cliff KU4GW for forwarding the link.

Via RAC

ARES and AuxComm

If you've been reading TCA, you'll know that RAC has created the new "RAC Auxiliary Communications Service" (ACS). In the words of Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT, RAC Community Services Officer, "the new RAC Auxiliary Communications Service will assume the original function of the RAC Amateur Radio Emergency Service (RAC ARES), but its focus will shift to recognize that disaster response management and telecommunication standards are now mandated by Canadian federal, provincial and territorial legislation and regulations and by international agreements."¹

This left many of us in ARES wondering about our role, and the future of our name. So we asked. After several discussions with Tremblay, we learned that our role as Amethyst District ARES need not change. In the future, there may be more training and certification opportunities, as well as increased opportunities to provide assistance to emergency management organizations. However, our current focus of providing emergency communications to municipal emergency management teams and their related organizations remains intact.

As a result, Amethyst District ARES is not changing its name. While we recognize that we are part of the new RAC ACS structure, we will retain the ARES name and logo. While we may be ACS certified in the future, we remain ARES.

Warren Paulson, CEC, VE3FYN

RAC ARES Amethyst District Emergency Coordinator

¹ <https://www.rac.ca/ares/>

Radio Ramblings

As winter holds us in a tight grip, our crazy world keeps spinning and we are faced with some challenging times. The old normal,(you remember, it's only 2 years ago) was just that, normal. Getting together for meetings, going out to Boston, field day and the list goes on. The new normal is try not to get sick, stay at home, and wear a mask so you can't be recognized by your significant other even in your own house. It has been a bit trying for some and I do feel sorry for those that can't get out, or in to see loved ones. I only hope that somewhere down the road we can look back and

say way to go people and congrats for making it through.

I have tried to stay out of trouble but due to the work that I do and many of you do, we are deemed essential services and had to continue to serve our community and provide needed services during these times. To try and mention everyone would surely leave someone out so I will say thanks to everyone for doing your part to get everyone through this time.

The Gunflint Mail Run is held every year in the first week of January and this year was no exception. I normally head down to the woods of Northern Minnesota and participate at my usual checkpoint. But with Covid and border restrictions, that wasn't happening this year. As usual, there were many teams entered with strong finishes by all the teams and no injuries. I listened to the race live on the Portage repeater maintained by the BWARC club out of the Grand Marais area. Congrats to the gang for your usual outstanding job at the race. I have missed this event twice now and will continue to look forward to the day when I will get to work with this group again.

The John Beargrease dog sled race was held last weekend with many of the world champion dog sled teams from the famous Alaskan Iditarod race participating. They left Duluth, Minnesota and traveled 300 plus miles to finish the race at Grand Portage Minnesota. I have had the pleasure to work at this race also in many different capacities. All adventures have been fun, a great learning experience, and I have met so many wonderful and caring people. If things get better, and crossing the border gets better, I would encourage you to travel down and take in this event and bring the family along as it is a carnival atmosphere that is contagious.

Congrats to the new hams in the area. I hope to get a chance to meet up with you once we can get to can get together again. I have chatted with a few of you on the local repeaters and have drawn in some of your enthusiasm for the hobby. Please come out and join the gang on Thursday evening at Boston Arthur St location at 9pm for some conversation and brainstorming and if you not careful,you might learn something.

I would like to send out a small shout out to the families that have lost a loved one that was part of our group. These silent keys were an important part of our family too and only hope that we can carry the torch with grace and dignity befitting such friends.

My 2 cents worth Randy VA3OJ

**Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
Treasurers Report – As of Feb 3, 2022**

Opening Balance Jan 7, 2022	\$ 5,223.91
Total Income (member dues)	\$ 190.00
EXPENSES	
Website renewal	\$ 73.04
Banking Fees	\$ 0.90
Total expenses (Website renewal)	\$ 73.94
Closing Balance Chequing Account	\$5,339.97
Term Deposit Account (Includes \$0.17 interest)	<u>\$2,075.99</u>
 TOTAL LARC accounts	 \$7,415.96

NOTES:

- * Pending RAC membership cheque (not cleared yet)
- * Balance of Chequing account after pending trailer expense (\$ 113) transferred from Trailer a/c into main chequing account \$ 5452.97

Trailer Account

Previous Balance	\$1,228.46
Income	
Interest	\$0.00
Total	\$1,228.46
Expenses	
Trailer Cover (Pending transfer from Trailer A/C \$ 113.00	
Current Balance in Trailer Account	\$1,228.46
 (Future Balance after \$113 Cover expense transferred out	 \$1,115.46

Randy McAllister VE3WBW
LARC Treasurer

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the general meeting held 13 January 2022

Chaired by Eric Todd VE3XET. Meeting called to order at 1902

A round table of the meeting participants

Safety message - distracted driving

Secretary's Report - Moved by Ed Baumann VE3SNW that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as printed in HI-Q. Seconded by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP and accepted

Treasurer's Report - Moved by Randy McAllister VE3WBW and seconded by Axel Rehfuhs VE3OPF that the treasurers report be accepted as printed in HI-Q. Accepted

Committee Reports

Community Events

Sleeping Giant Loppet (aka Sibley Ski Tour) is scheduled for March 5th pending final approval from Parks Ontario and the Health Unit. This is a slimmed down event with only checkpoints we encourage all amateurs to volunteer, especially those new to public service. These events are good training for ACS (ARES) events. Contact Randy Gottfred VA3OJ if you are interested.

Old Business

Stephan Burns VE3SJB is investigating using RAC to host the club website and will coordinate with the other members involved with creating the present site.

Ed Baumann VE3SNW is working on a thankyou letter for those organizations and businesses that help LARC.

New Business

Brandon Rehfuhs VE3OTV announced he is planning a trip to Quetico Park with other members and if anyone is interested to contact him.

Motion to adjourn.

Equipment Sale

I received a call from the family of Dennis Buckberger (SK) ve3drb the other day and was asked if I could come and pick up the remaining radio equipment and if the club would be interested. I agreeded and met with Graham his son.

Graham took me downstairs and I was a bit taken back by the home brew gear that was there. Dennis had put some time into this station as it was all hand made except the boxes and components. It is a thing of beauty. As an avid QRPer, he built this multiband hf unit, power supply, tuner, keyer and an amplifier.

They are crafted into individual boxes and the station run 1-10 watts and can be switched to the amp if you don't want to run qrp. A few people have seen it and are impressed by the quality of the build.

As we don't have a place to showcase this work, the club will be looking to sell this station. I hope to have more info for the meeting and then we will decided how this station will be put up for sale. I have included pictures of the gear for you to check out and will list some of the specs. thanks for you consideration

Randy VA3OJ

tx-10-cw 80-10m transceiver

1-10 watts qrp with switchable access to a lin-150 150w amplifier

13.6 v 25 amp power supply

mk-1 keyer

spc-200 tuner

tv 3300 drake low pass filter



LARC Winter Field Day 2022

What an experience it was. Stephan asked me what I was doing for Winter Field Day. I had never participated in a Winter Field Day, only in the Summer Field Days. How different could it be?

Well, I was in for a bit of a surprise, especially since they were calling for -20 to -25 Celsius for the Winter Field Day weekend. I figured if everyone dressed warm and we have a lot of firewood, things should be all the same as a summer field day.



First, we had to come up with sufficient shelters for everyone and assure that we had enough space for social distancing in our new covid world.

Then, make sure the water for coffee, tea or the hot chocolate would not freeze as well as the munchies. I didn't think it would be hard as we had propane heaters and stoves. **Wrong!** Did you know that big and small propane cylinders stop flowing at these frigid temperatures? We had to warm up the propane cylinders just to get them to work.

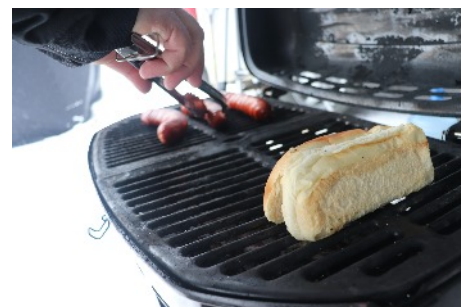
Then came the real Emergency exercise, some of us went on a bit of a snowmobile trip and found out that the snowdrifts were big and managed to get one of the snowmobiles stuck. Logic at this point told us to grab the cell phone and let them know back at base camp that we were going to be delayed or to see if they could send help to get us unstuck. Well, to our surprises all of our cell phones were non-functional (the batteries were frozen) or they had 0% battery power. Thank god for 2 meter VHF which allowed us to contact the gang back at field day (and you guys thought there was no good purpose for the Baofeng UV5R - WRONG there is). At the end of the day, Stephan did not have to go to the gym as he managed to get a good workout shovelling. What a great way to demonstrate that our ham equipment will come in handy if the cellular system should ever fail.

Otherwise, numerous contacts were made throughout the weekend, lots of good stories were told, while consuming some great food. Thank you to everyone

who helped to make this Winter Field Day 2022 a great success. Also special thanks to the following sponsors that helped in one way or another to make this event what it was: Rocky Brooks Farm, Branax Fur Management, Rusty Iron Acres, Axel's Water & Plumbing, Brandon's Bargains, European Meats and Deli, Real Canadian Superstore, Ode-na Foods, and numerous others which wished to stay un-named.

I am already looking forward to some of the other events that the LARC is planning.

73's de Brandon VE3OTV



**Ham Radio
ROCKS!**

LARC First Annual Backcountry Expedition

We are currently in the recruitment and planning phase of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club's First Annual Backcountry Expedition. Our expedition will offer 4 different opportunities to participate.

1. Backcountry Paddle:

The backcountry paddle section involves a 5-day basecamp canoe trip in the depths of Quetico Provincial Park. This section will involve daily expeditions to visit pictographs, dams & waterfalls, and a spectacular fishing location. While at basecamp and throughout the daily expeditions, we will be active on HF making radio contacts.

2. Shore Basecamp:

The shore basecamp section involves setting up and staying at the Quetico Provincial Park campground. Participants of this section have the ability able to use campers as well potentially have access to a current bush.

3. Work from Home:

The work from home section allows you to work from home and communicate with us.

4. Technological & Logistical Support:

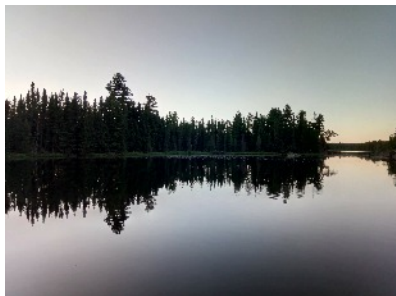
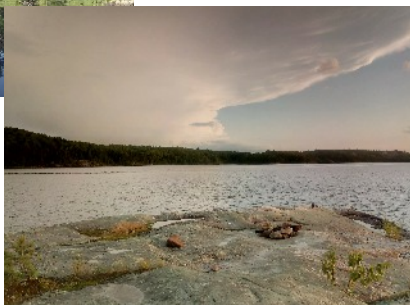
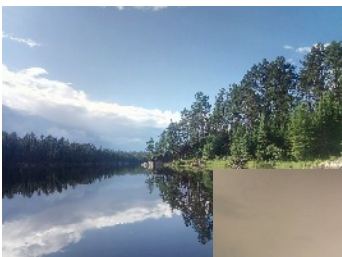
If you are unable to come camping, but still want to help us out, we are always looking for support. The trip will be occurring early in August this year.

If you are interested in any of these segments, please let us know using the following link:
<https://bit.ly/LARCExpInterest>.


I have also attached some pictures courtesy of Stephan – VE3SJB to spike your interest!

If you have any questions, please contact me at brandonr@tbaytel.net

73's de VE3OTV – Brandon Rehfuhs



February 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3 Exec meeting	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 LARC meeting via Zoom	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Antenna Test Day	27
28	It's not too soon to be thinking about Field Day!!!					